

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph on page 12 below the paragraph ending on line 4 and above the paragraph ending on line 5. This paragraph is taken word for word from provisional application number 60/418,924. The instant application claims priority to this provisional application and incorporates it by reference (see page 2 of the instant application).

“Embodiments of the present invention provide a single threaded message history for a particular “conversation” across multiple messaging sessions and multiple messaging formats. “Conversation,” as used herein, refers to an exchange of electronic messages between a user and a contact, or among a user and a group of contacts. Rather than using a separate menu for each type of electronic message, such as email and text messages, embodiments of the present invention provides a single interface to all of the messages that are part of the conversation. Rather than using a separate inbox and outbox for messages to and from a particular conversation participant, embodiments of the present invention list all of the messages together so that the message list progresses like a verbal conversation between or among participants, rather like a transcript. Unlike an chat session, such as an Instant Messenger® chat session, embodiments of the present invention persistently maintain a conversation until the conversation, or particular messages within the conversation are deleted by a user.

In one embodiment, each conversation is based on a contact record, history, or profile. Contact records are sometimes referred to as a “pal” list. A for a particular contact, a record is created listing information such as the contact name, email address(es), phone number(s), text messaging identifiers, and the like, and stored on the user’s communication device. Many different message protocols, services, or formats use a variety of different ways to identify the sender, and contact records can include any and all of them. As services and contacts change and come available, contact records can be added, deleted, and modified.

When a message arrives, be it an email message, a text message, a voice mail notification, or the like, identifying information can be taken from the message and

compared to the contact records. For instance, an email address of the sender can be compared to the email addresses listed among the contact records. Similarly, if caller ID is available, a caller's name or telephone number can be compared to the contact records. If a match is found, the message is added to a conversation thread for that particular contact.

Similarly, for outgoing messages, identifying information from the message can be compared to contact records and, if a match is found, added to the appropriate conversation. In a alternate embodiment, a user can generate a message by selecting a contact from a contact list. In which case, the outgoing message can also be added to the conversation thread for that contact.

If a message is received from an unknown or unrecognized source, any number of actions can be taken. One embodiment places the message in an general inbox for incoming messages. Another embodiment maintains a general conversation thread for messages to and from unknown sources.

In one embodiment, multiple conversations can be tracked on a device, and a user can switch among the conversations. In another embodiment, multiple contacts can be added to a single conversation thread. In yet another embodiment, conversations with a particular contact can be separated into multiple conversation. For instance, private and business conversations could be segregated by directing messages from a personal email address, text message service, and/or telephone number to a private conversation, and messages from a work email address, text message service, and/or telephone number to a work conversation."